

**From:** Carlos Andrade  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 11:12am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement.

January 16, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft

The Justice Department

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am writing in support of the recent settlement between the Department of Justice and Microsoft. I am not as acquainted with all the details of this that I would prefer, but this entire lawsuit seems to have come about simply because some of Microsoft's competitors grew weary of trying to compete with Microsoft's Free Internet Explorer. I personally use IE and have done so for a while. I appreciate the fact of having free software with the operating system that I got with my computer. I understand that Netscape does not appreciate not being able to get my \$40 or so dollars which I would have had to pay to them to get an Internet Explorer, because Microsoft provided it for free. This, in my opinion, is not a proper utilization of our legal system.

I use Microsoft products in my business and have found that their software is simply better and more reliable than anyone else's. I have used Netscape which I had received from my ISP, but I found Microsoft's product more user friendly and less problematic when it came to updates. Microsoft exerted no amount of influence for me to reach that conclusion. Simple experience has done that.

I believe that this lawsuit was simply an effort to force Microsoft to "dumb down" its efforts and allow other, software developers a chance at catching up. I also think that when a customer buys an operating system

that has some added features such as a stable Internet explorer, the only one that benefits is the consumer. They don't need to go out and purchase additional software to get on the web which is what most customer are now getting computer for. This settlement has thankfully nullified the effort to separate IE form Windows. It is fair and offers pragmatic answers to complex problems, such as competitors' worries about interoperability of Windows and OEMs irritation with Microsoft for shipping additional software along with Windows. Though the settlement extends a bit beyond the scope of the original lawsuit, it does end the litigation and should, in my opinion, be accepted.

Sincerely,

Carlos Andrade

Carlos Andrade

Network Administrator